accorded Most-Favoured-Nation status to India in contravention of its GATT/ WTO obligations; instead it currently allows imports from India only against a unilateral list of 570 items, many of which do not have a real export potential from India. Under the circumstances, it is not feasible to formulate a promotion strategy for trade with Pakistan, even if there is a vast scope. The Government of India have made a formal demarche to the Pakistan Government about the MFN status, response to which is awaited.

Meanwhile, it is expected that some trade promotion would be facilitated with the operationalisation of SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) and the recent understanding among all SAARC member countries to carry the SAPTA process forward.

Delaying on Implementation of Electronics Projects under MPLADS

1337. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION *be pleased to state:*

(a) whether Government is aware that under the MPLADS the Collectors are delaying the projects on grounds of improper interpretation of the paragraph 3 on page 4 of guidelines on implementation of electronics projects;

(b) if so, when the paragraph is so liberal and the object is to find a school, college or centralised place wherein students in general could be given exposure/training on computers then what is the point in doubting whether a school is aided or unaided; and

(c) whether Government would issue instructions to Collectors that the document is 'guideline' and not a rule or law and that the interpretation must be liberal and objective and not literal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) One such instance has been brought to the notice of the Government very recently. The factual report in the matter has been called for from the Collector.

(b) The guidelines on implementations of electronic projects issued by the Department of Electronics, which have been referred to by the Hon'ble Member are subject to the overall guidelines issued by the Department of Programme Implementation. This has also been made clear by formally amending the guidelines of the Department of Programme Implementation Vide its O.M. dated 24.9.1995. The guidelines of the Department of Programme Implementation stipulate assistance to government and government aided schools.

(c) The guidelines have the force of rules in as much as no change can be made in the guidelines without its being brought to the prior notice of the Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha. The question whether general instructions in the matter should be issued or not, will be considered in the light of the reply received from the Collector.

Non-Lifting of PDS Supplies by Consumers

1338. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 115 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th August, 1995 and state what remedial measures Government propose to take to increase lifting of rationed items by consumers from Fair Price Shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPTT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): Central Govern-

ment has not raised the Central Issue Prices of rice and wheat for the Public Distribution System (PDS) since 1st February, 1994 despite subsequent increases in Minimum Support Prices for rice and wheat. The position is being reviewed with the State Governments from time to time for increasing the offtake of foodgrains in the PDS. The monthly average offtake of rice during January to October, 1995 has increased to 7.38 lakh tonnes as compared to 6.53 lakh tonnes during January to December, 1994. The monthly average offtake of wheat during January to October, 1995 was nearly at the same level of 4.1 lakh tonnes as in 1994. The offtake of levy sugar and superior kerosene oil have increased in 1995 due to higher allocations.

भारतीय खाद्य निगम को दी गई राजसहायता

1339. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:**
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:

क्या **खाद्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय खाद्य निगम को सरकार द्वारा दी जाने वाली वार्षिक राजसहायता की राशि में निरंतर बढ़ोत्तरी हो रही है; और यदि हां, तो वर्ष 1992-93, 1993-94 और 1994-95 के दौरान दी गई राजसहायता की राशि संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि उपरोक्त वर्षों में भारतीय खाद्य निगम से विक्रय किए जाने वाले गेहूं और चावल की मात्रा में प्रत्येक वर्ष में निरंतर कमी आई है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो वर्ष 1992-93, 1993-94 और 1994-95 के दौरान कितनी-कितनी मात्रा में गेहूं और चावल को खुले बाजार एवं सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के माध्यम से बेचा गया था?

खाद्य मंत्री (श्री अजित सिंह): (क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान खाद्य सब्सिडी खाते पर भारतीय खाद्य निगम के लिए निम्नलिखित राशि रिलीज की गई थी:—

वर्ष	रुपए / करोड़
1992-93	2785
1993-94	5537
1994-95	4509

(ख) और (ग) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा खुले बाजार और सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के माध्यम से गेहूं और चावल की निम्नलिखित मात्रा बेची गई थी:—

(लाख मीटरी टन में)

	गेहूं	चावल
1992-93		
सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली / सम्पुष्ट सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली	77.24	94.89
खुला बाजार	00.18	00.32
1993-94		
सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली / सम्पुष्ट सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली	59.69	89.56
खुला बाजार	28.73	01.06
1994-95		
सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली / सम्पुष्ट सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली	49.83	80.13
खुला बाजार	51.90	04.87

Proposal to Revive Financial Assistance Scheme for Consumer Cooperatives

1340. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to revive the financial assistance scheme for consumer cooperative to ensure distribution of essential commodities on a large scale in rural and semi-urban areas;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what has been the extent of central assistance given for the purpose to each State during each of the last three years and how it has been utilised; and